

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

C L A I M S

- 1.(original) Cellulose-based fibrous web comprising
 - a) cellulosic fibres having a freeness value of more than 26 °SR measured according to DIN-ISO 5267/1 (March 1999),
 - b) a water-soluble cationic polymer,
 - c) a water-soluble anionic polymer, and
 - d) a cationic surfactant-based softener.
- 2.(original) Cellulose-based fibrous web according to claim 1, wherein the cellulosic fibres have a degree of freeness of from 27 to 40°SR.
- 3.(original) Cellulose-based fibrous web according to claim 1, wherein the cellulosic fibres are pulp fibres.
- 4.(original) Cellulose-based fibrous web according to claim 1, wherein said product comprises refined and gently refined or unrefined fibres, said refined fibres having a freeness value of more than 26°SR.
- 5.(original) Cellulose-based fibrous web according to claim 4, wherein the refined fibres are long softwood fibres and the gently refined or unrefined fibres are long softwood fibres or short hardwood fibres.

6.(original) Cellulose-based fibrous web according to claim 4, wherein the amount of refined fibres ranges from 10 to 100 weight %, and the amount of gently refined or unrefined fibres ranges from 90 to 0 weight %, based on the total amount of cellulosic fibres.

7.(original) Cellulose-based fibrous web according to claim 1, wherein said product comprises refined and gently refined or unrefined fibres, said refined fibres having a freeness value of more than 26°SR, wherein the refined fibres are long softwood fibres and the gently refined or unrefined fibres are long softwood fibres or short hardwood fibres and wherein the amount of refined fibres ranges from 10 to 100 weight %, and the amount of gently refined or unrefined fibres ranges from 90 to 0 weight %, based on the total amount of cellulosic fibres.

8.(original) Cellulose-based fibrous web according to claim 1, wherein the water-soluble cationic polymer is present in an amount of 0.01 to 5 weight %, based on the total amount of (untreated) cellulosic fibres.

9.(original) Cellulose-based fibrous web according to claim 1, wherein the cationic water-soluble polymer is a wet-strength agent.

10.(original) Cellulose-based fibrous web according to claim 1, wherein the cationic water-soluble polymer is selected from urea-formaldehyde, melamine-formaldehyde, polyureide-formaldehyde, glyoxal-acrylamide, polyaminoamide-epichlorohydrin resins, polyamine-epichlorohydrin resins or amine polymer-epichlorohydrin resins.

11.(original) Cellulose-based fibrous web according to claim

10, wherein the cationic water-soluble polymer is selected from polyaminoamide-epichlorohydrin resins, polyamine-epichlorohydrin resins or amine polymer-epichlorohydrin resins.

12.(original) Cellulose-based fibrous web according to claim 1, wherein the water-soluble anionic polymer is present in an amount of 0.01 to 3 weight %, based on the total amount of (untreated) cellulosic fibres.

13.(currently amended) Cellulose-based fibrous web according to claim 1 [[or 11]], wherein the water-soluble anionic polymer is selected from starch-based polymers, (meth)acrylic acid-derived polymers and copolymers, maleic-anhydride-derived copolymers, vinyl copolymers of carboxylic acids and cellulose-based polymers.

14.(original) Cellulose-based fibrous web according to claim 13, wherein the cellulose-based polymer is carboxyalkylated cellulose.

15.(original) Cellulose-based fibrous web according to claim 1, wherein the cationic water-soluble polymer is selected from polyaminoamide-epichlorohydrin resins, polyamine-epichlorohydrin resins or amine polymer-epichlorohydrin resins and the cellulose-based polymer is carboxyalkylated cellulose.

16.(original) Cellulose-based fibrous web according to claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of water-soluble cationic polymer to water-soluble anionic polymer is from (3-5)/1.

17.(original) Cellulose-based fibrous web according to claim 1, wherein the cationic surfactant-based softener is present in an amount of 0.005 to 3 weight %, based on the total amount of (untreated) cellulosic fibres.

18.(original) Cellulose-based fibrous web according to claim 17, wherein the softener is a quaternary ammonium compound.

19.(original) Cellulose-based fibrous web according to claim 1, wherein the cellulose-based web is tissue paper.

20.(original) Process for the preparation of a cellulose-based fibrous web comprising the steps of

refining cellulosic fibres to a degree of freeness of more than 26 °SR, measured according to DIN-ISO 5267/1,

adding at least one water-soluble anionic polymer and water-soluble cationic polymer to the refined cellulosic fibres,

adding a cationic surfactant-based softener to the cellulosic fibres obtained thereby, and

wet-laying and dewatering the cellulosic fibres obtained thereby.

21.(original) Process according to claim 20, wherein the degree of freeness is at least 27°SR.

22.(original) Process according to claim 20, wherein the fibrous web is (original)a tissue paper and the process further comprises the step of drying and creping the wet-laid cellulosic fibres.

23.(original) Process according to claim 20, wherein long softwood fibres are refined in the refining step which are then admixed with unrefined short hardwood fibres prior to or after the addition of at least one water-soluble anionic polymer and at least one water-soluble cationic polymer.

24.(original) Process according to claim 20, wherein the

anionic water-soluble polymer is added to the cellulosic fibres and left to act upon the cellulosic fibres before the cationic water-soluble polymer is added.

25.(original) Process according to claim 20, wherein the cationic polymer is added in such an amount that the final web contains an amount of 0.01 to 5 weight %, based on the total amount of (untreated) cellulosic fibres.

26.(original) Process according to claim 20, wherein the cationic water-soluble polymer is a wet-strength agent.

27.(original) Process according to claim 20, wherein the cationic water-soluble polymer is selected from urea-formaldehyde, melamine-formaldehyde, polyureide-formaldehyde, glyoxal-acrylamide, polyaminoamide-epichlorohydrin resins, polyamine-epichlorohydrin resins or amine polymer-epichlorohydrin resins.

28.(original) Process according to claim 27, wherein the cationic water-soluble polymer is selected from polyaminoamide-epichlorohydrin resins, polyamine-epichlorohydrin resins or amine polymer-epichlorohydrin resins.

29.(original) Process according to claim 20, wherein the anionic polymer is added in such an amount that the final web contains an amount of 0.01 to 3 weight %, based on the total amount of (untreated) cellulosic fibres.

30.(original) Process according to claim 20, wherein the water-soluble anionic polymer is selected from starch-based polymers, (meth)acrylic acid-derived polymers and copolymers, maleic-anhydride-derived copolymers, vinyl copolymers of carboxylic acids and cellulose-based polymers.

31.(original) Process according to claim 30, wherein the cellulose-based polymer is carboxyalkylated cellulose.

32.(original) Process according to claim 20, wherein the cationic surfactant-based softener is added in such an amount that the final web contains an amount of 0.005 to 3 weight %, based on the total amount of (untreated) cellulosic fibres.

33.(original) Process according to claim 20, wherein the softener is a quaternary ammonium compound.